Discrete Mathematics 56 (1985) 93–94
North-Holland

EDITORIAL

The first International Colloquium "Algebra and Error Correcting Codes: Theory and Applications" has taken place at the University Paul Sabatier in Toulouse (France), (28–30 June 1983).

Fourth important town in the roman empire, celebrated by the poets Martial and Ausone, Toulouse has maintained the long poetic tradition of the 'Jeux Floraux' since 1323. It is in Toulouse that the largest romanesque 'church of christianity' is to be found: The basilica Saint Sernin. It displays to perfection the qualities of strength and balance typical of medieval religious architecture.

Art and culture ally with the scientific and industrial activities of companies such as Airbus Industrie, Ariane Espace, Breguet-Dassault, P. Sabatier University. These multiple activities make Toulouse a young and dynamic town.

The tour of the city was a pleasant complement for the participants, coming from different countries, to the 34 talks given over three days.

The subjects that we believed to be of most interest were n variables polynomials, applications of algebraic geometry, codes (group codes, selfdual, SAB, convolutional) and their cosets, codes decomposition and complexity, discrete transforms, algebraic algorithms, and soft simulations.

Fruitful exchanges took place during three days. They were prolonged thanks to a system of two-times referees. This system enabled us to select the 22 papers which make up this special issue of Discrete Mathematics.

I would like to thank P. Hammer and his colleagues for their kindness and patience: a system of two-times referees is a useful (and necessary) task, though it is time consuming.

My thanks go equally to all referees who participated. They undertook this supplementary task with great competence and equanimity which we very much appreciate.

A big 'thank you' goes to Mr. Dargent, Scientific Director at the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, in Toulouse, for allowing us free access to the computing facilities at the Center. Thanks to his help we were able to develop numerous algorithms (construction of error correcting codes, noisy data transmission simulations, polynomial factorizations) and to use MACSYMA and REDUCE softwares.

A big 'thank you' also to Mr. Combarnous, Scientific Director of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (Paris), for his financial aid.

The Algebra laboratory (particularly Professor R. Desq), the L.S.I. laboratory (particularly the members of my team A.A.E.C.C.) and the University Paul Sabatier also helped us. My thanks also to them.

Professor R. Desq, Professor D. Lazard (Paris VI University, Director of the GRECO "Calcul Formel"), P. Camion (Directeur de Recherche à l'INRIA, Paris)

and myself (A.A.E.C.C./L.S.I.) thank all the participants of this 1st Colloquium. Having met them at the 2nd one, (1–5 October 1984, UPS, Toulouse), we look forward to seeing them again at the 3rd Colloquium (15–19 July 1985 at Grenoble, France).

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Responsible for A.A.E.C.C.